

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for acknowledgment of claim for foreign priority based on an application number 138181/2000 filed in Japan on 05/11/2000. The Applicant is aware of the fact that a certified copy of the 138181/2000 application is not in the file and will submit it in the near future.

The indication of acceptance of the drawings filed on May 10, 2001, is noted with appreciation.

The indication that claims 4, 8, 12 and 16 are drawn to the allowable subject matter is also noted with appreciation.

By this amendment the specification has been corrected in order to eliminate an inaccuracy on page 12. Specifically, the description of the claimed invention should be directed to the Figure 2A, not Figure 1A as was presented. No new matter added by this amendment.

Claims 1-3, 5-7, 9-11, and 13-15 are currently active in the application. By the present amendment claims 1, 5, 9 and 13 have been amended and claims 4, 8, 12 and 16 have been canceled. No new matter presented by this matter.

Claims 1-3, 5-7, 9-11 and 13-15 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Uesugi et al. (U.S. Patent Publication) in view of Aihara (U.S. Patent 6,782,041). This rejection is respectfully traversed in a view of the present amendment.

The Examiner indicated that the claims 4, 8, 12 and 16 are drawn to the allowable subject matter. By the present amendment claims 1, 5, 9 and 13 have been amended to incorporate the limitations of allowable claims 4, 8, 12 and 16 respectively. Subsequently, claims 4, 8, 12 and 16 have been canceled. Therefore, hereby the rejection is moot and claims 1-3, 5-7, 9-11, and 13-15 are allowable and the case is in condition for allowance.

The prior art cited but not relied on by the Examiner has been reviewed, but for the reasons already advanced, that prior art is similarly not relevant to the invention as now claimed.

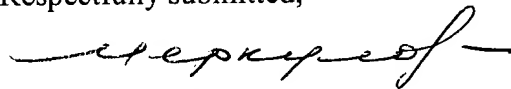
In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the application be

reconsidered, that claims 1-3, 5-7, 9-11, and 13-15 be allowed, and that the application be passed to issue.

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.

A provisional petition is hereby made for any extension of time necessary for the continued pendency during the life of this application. Please charge any fees for such provisional petition and any deficiencies in fees and credit any overpayment of fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-2041 (Whitham, Curtis & Christofferson, P.C.).

Respectfully submitted,



Olga V. Merkoulouva
Reg. No. 48,757

Whitham, Curtis & Christofferson, P.C.
11491 Sunset Hills Road, Suite 340
Reston, VA 20190
Tel. (703) 787-9400
Fax. (703) 787-7557
Customer No.: 30 743